

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 11461 241602Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 SSM-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /103 W
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8325
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR EG XF OVIP (ATHERTON ALFRED L.)
SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF ATHERTON VISIT

SUMMARY. PRESS APRIL 23-24 PROMINENTLY COVERED ATHERTON
VISIT AND SADAT'S EMPHASIS THAT ISRAELI POSITION MUST
CHANGE. ATHERTON TO CARRY SADAT MESSAGE TO CARTER CON-
VEYING EGYPT'S VIEW ON DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND ON
FORMULAE AND PROPOSALS EXCHANGED DURING WORKING SESSION.
GUMHURIYYA SAYS ATHERTON'S REAFFIRMATION OF U.S. COMMIT-
MENT TO SEARCH FOR PEACE NOT ENOUGH. U.S. MUST FORCE
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 11461 241602Z

ISRAEL TO CHANGE HER POSITION. MEDIA USING VISIT TO
PLAY UP CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN U.S. AND
EGYPT AND TOUGH POSITIONS BEING MAINTAINED BY SADAT.
END SUMMARY.

1. ATHERTON. AMERICAN ENVOY'S MEETINGS WITH SADAT AND
KAMEL RECEIVED BANNER HEADLINE COVERAGE IN PRESS

APRIL 23-24 COMPLETE WITH FRONT-PAGE PICTURES--HEADLINES
THIS MORNING PROCLAIM: "SADAT INFORMS ATHERTON ISRAEL
IS CALLED UPON TO CHANGE POLICY TO REALIZE PEACE". AHAM
STRESSED SADAT'S POSITION THAT ISRAEL MUST CHANGE
HER STAND TOWARDS TOTAL WITHDRAWAL AND THE RIGHTS OF
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. EGYPT CONTINUES TO "GIVE CHANCE" TO
PEACE EFFORTS AND SADAT READY TO SEND KAMEL TO WASHINGTON
IF THAT USEFUL. ATHERTON TO CARRY MESSAGE TO CARTER
CONTAINING EGYPT'S "CLEAR POINT OF VIEW" ON DECLARATION
PROPOSALS, BOTH WRITTEN AND ORAL, EXCHANGED DURING
WORKING SESSION." ATHERTON REPORTED SAYING TALKS USEFUL
AND DETAILED, THAT HE HAD BROUGHT NO "AMERICAN PROPOSALS"
BUT HAD "EXCHANGED VIEWS ON SEVERAL IDEAS. HE DID NOT
STUDY IF THAT USEFUL. ATHERTON REPORTEDLY SAID THIS
MISSION DIFFERED FROM OTHERS--INSTEAD OF TRANSMITTING
IN WAY OF NEGOTIATIONS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER
SADAT INSISTED ON CHANGE OF ISRAELI ATTITUDE, ATHERTON
REPLIED THAT SADAT FEELS CERTAIN POSITIONS OUGHT
TO "BE ADJUSTED".

2. U.S. ROLE. IN SUNDAY EDITORIAL, GUMHURIYYA PRAISED
ATHERTON'S REAFFIRMATION OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S
COMMITMENT TO SEARCH FOR PEACE. HOWEVER, THIS "IS NOT
ALL THAT IS REQUIRED." COMMITMENT MAY BE ENUNCIATED
"FOR NEXT TEN YEARS" WITHOUT ACHIEVING PEACE. U.S.
MUST "EXERCISE THIS COMMITMENT PRACTICALLY TO FORCE
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PAGE 03 CAIRO 11461 241602Z

ISRAEL TO CHANGE HER POSITION." WHAT EXPECTED OF CARTER
ADMINISTRATION, EDITORIAL CONCLUDES, IS "POSITION WHICH
GOES BEYOND CONVENTIONAL DIPLOMATIC USAGE" TO GIVE PUSH
TO PEACE PROCESS. IMPORTANCE OF CHANGE IN ISRAELI
POSITION UNDERSCORED BY SADAT COMMENT IN LATEST OCTOBER
INTERVIEW (SEPTTEL) IN WHICH HE SAID CONTINUED DIRECT
CONTACT BETWEEN ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS IS NOT
WHAT IS IMPORTANT. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS NEW IDEAS TO
GIVE SUCH CONTACTS PURPOSE. EILTS

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